

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent  
*Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15<sup>th</sup> District*



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**Rep. Dent's defense appropriation to help  
Bethlehem firm improve Navy shipbuilding**  
*Bill includes \$3M for Navy project at local plant*

BETHLEHEM — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) announced today that the House-passed Defense Appropriations Act for 2007 includes \$3,000,000 for Lehigh Heavy Forge in Bethlehem to develop important manufacturing techniques for the U.S. Navy's nuclear fleet. The bill passed the House Wednesday night and awaits Senate approval.

Lehigh Heavy Forge will help implement improvement in U.S. Navy nuclear power plant and ship-propulsion shaft manufacturing. Invested funds will create cost-effective and innovative design and manufacturing technologies and techniques to create a new standard in component manufacturing, helping the Navy meet its time-sensitive production needs.

"American industry and innovation helps keep our military at the world's forefront," Congressman Dent said. "We are fortunate here in the 15<sup>th</sup> District to have a company like Lehigh Heavy Forge that can provide our defense forces with the important tools needed to keep us safe. This is important to the Lehigh Valley's economy and work force, but also helps assure that we keep the American military supplied by American companies. Lehigh Heavy Forge is the only manufacturer of this type of equipment in the United States."

Congressman Dent noted that the manufacturing processes at Lehigh Heavy Forge could have commercial applications for domestic nuclear power.

“The funding that Congressman Dent has secured for this manufacturing improvement project will help Lehigh Heavy Forge create new, low-cost manufacturing solutions for the forging of steel products used on Navy combatant ships and submarines,” said Charles "Curly" Novelli, President of the WHEMCO Group of Companies, which owns Lehigh Heavy Forge. “From his first visit to our Bethlehem facility, it was clear that Congressman Dent understood that an investment in this sector of the defense industrial base would have a direct impact on the affordability of new and much-needed shipboard systems.”

Lehigh Heavy Forge is the sole source for many nuclear power plant components and shafts for U.S. Navy submarines and aircraft carriers, and almost all ship shafts for new construction and replacement parts are forged at the Bethlehem site.

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